

that had been made, it only comprised 500,000 or 600,000 acres at the very outside, leaving available between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 acres of virgin spruce. Was the policy that would effect settlement, give employment to our people, furnish a market for our products and supply traffic to our railways not better than the laissez faire policy of the Opposition?

Mr. Ross said he did not understand any opposition in a matter of this kind any more than in the improvement of roads, the drainage of the country or the development of northern Ontario. He had thought it was the policy of the hon. gentlemen opposite to be progressive. But under the leadership of Mr. Whitney a change had come over their spirit. They were not courageous, and they would be doomed to undergo forty years in the wilderness of Opposition. (Ministerial applause.) "The country," said Mr. Ross, "does not want a pusillanimous Government. It may have an Opposition possessing some of those qualities. I do not believe it has, and until I see the hon. gentlemen opposite rise in their place and one by one vote against this agreement I will not believe it is possible. Two little pulp mills are sufficient for our ambition; that and nothing further seems to be the policy of our Opposition." (Cheers.)

#### Amendment to the Amendment.

Premier Ross concluded by moving the following amendment to the amendment offered by Mr. Whitney favoring public competition in disposing of such concessions:—"This House, believing that until, as the result of further experience in the sale and disposition of pulpwood, it is found practicable to establish general regulations on the subject, the control of the amount of dues which may be charged, including the power to increase the same from time to time, as well as the numerous advantageous stipulations on behalf of the Crown contained in the said agreement, amply safeguard the best interests of the Province, and that every facility should be afforded for encouraging the establishment of important manufacturing and industrial enterprises in the northerly and unorganized portions of the Province."

#### Mr. Whitney States His Position.

Mr. Whitney said the position taken by the Opposition was such that it did away with any criticism of the bargain. It was to mark a new era in the dealing with the public domain of our country. They did not need to go outside the building to see that the hon. members opposite were not all with the Premier. The Premier seemed to think he had the country with him—he who had the other day sat in fear and trembling and had begged for the suspension of the rules of the House in order to postpone a vote. The Opposition were accused of putting obstacles in the way of developing the country. They were putting obstacles in the way of giving away large slices of public resources. (Opposition applause.) The Opposition simply said that the time had come when the public domain should not be given out blindfold in secret contracts, when the people, in whose behalf the

Government were acting, were unaware of what was being given away.

#### Precedents Disregarded.

The Opposition's voting for the other concessions was no reason for supporting or opposing the present one, which should be judged on its own merits. He thought the Sault concession was wise, and was scarcely prepared to say they erred in supporting the Sturgeon Falls grant. As to the Nipigon, he was glad it had collapsed, and the House would hear more of that before the end of the session. No more concessions should be granted until the people as a whole had a better knowledge of the pulp resources of the country. Mr. Whitney said the Government had contracted the habit of arrogating to themselves power to do things during the recess by order in Council, and when the House met forcing their supporters to swallow whatever they did. The result of this was that the Government held capitalists who were seeking concessions in the hollow of their hands, and could compel them to yield to improper demands. Some revelations might be made in the not distant future as to the transactions of this character which had gone on. He was glad to hear that Mr. Ross wanted an investigation into and explanation of the extent and value of the timber resources of the Province. Perhaps on account of that statement he might find himself in a position to co-operate with the Government in that regard. He declined to discuss the terms and conditions of the contract, because, as he had already said, of the broad question of policy upon which the Opposition had taken their stand.

The House divided on the amendment to the amendment, which was carried on a straight party vote, amid Ministerial applause, of 46 to 39, the main motion being carried on the same division.

The House adjourned at 10.30.

#### Railway to Parry Sound.

A deputation from Parry Sound waited upon the Government yesterday and asked for a grant of \$3,200 a mile towards the construction of a five-mile railway to connect the McGowan copper mine with the Ottawa, Arnprior & Parry Sound Railway. Consideration of the application was promised. The deputation were introduced by Mr. Beatty, M.P.P., and consisted of Mayor John A. Johnson, John McLennan, President of the Board of Trade, and W. L. Haight, County Crown Attorney.

#### Large Powers for Railways.

In the Railway Committee yesterday morning there was considerable difference of opinion over a bill to incorporate the Superior & James Bay Railway to run from Rossport, a zinc mining district on the north shore of Lake Superior, to the mouth of the Albany River. The company wanted the right to engage in mining and smelting also, but the Chairman of the committee, Hon. Mr. Dryden, and the Attorney-General took the ground that it was contrary to the recognized policy of the Government to grant such extraordinary powers in a railway bill. Incorporation for the mining and smelting enterprise must be obtained separately. The prin-